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JOB CORPS' VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING COMPETITION TAKES LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Students Apply Learned Skills And Improve Their Surroundings

PHILADELPHIA – A community playground, basketball court and '50s-style snack bar were just a few of the winning entries from the Philadelphia Region's second annual Vocational Skills Training Competition.

Students from 11 of the region's centers stepped up to the challenge by creating projects to enhance their centers and local communities.

The regional office established the competition last year to give vocational students an opportunity to showcase their skills, make a difference on center or in their local communities and boost student morale and retention.

"The students who participated in the 2005 Vocational Skills Training Competition did outstanding work on center and in the community," said Lynn Intrepidi, Job Corps' Region II Director. "The craftsmanship and skills they have attained from Job Corps shined through their community and center projects. This competition reinforces what Job Corps is all about: learning new skills, having a strong work ethic and growing as an individual."

The winners of the Vocational Skills Training Competition were:

Community-based Category

First Place:	Woodstock Job Corps Center, Woodstock, Md. Community Playground
Second Place:	Great Onyx Job Corps Center, Mammoth Cave, Ky. Dog Creek Recreation Area Handicap Sidewalk
Third Place:	Red Rock Job Corps Center, Lopez, Pa. Community Basketball Court

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Center-based Category

First Place:	Muhlenburg Career Development Center, Greenville, Ky. Student Government Association Store and Snack Bar
Second Place:	Frenchburg Job Corps Center, Frenchburg, Ky. Dorm III Wing Renovation
Third Place:	Pittsburgh Job Corps Center, Pittsburgh, Pa. Renovation of Men's Dorms

The first-place winners in both categories will receive \$15,000 to purchase vocational equipment, the second-place winners will receive \$10,000, and the third-place winners will receive \$5,000.

The community-based entries were rated in three areas: the extent to which the project enhanced the appearance of the community or the lives of community members; the quality of the project/workmanship including design, craftsmanship and professionalism; and the variety of skills/competencies utilized in the project.

The center-based entries were rated in three areas: the extent to which the project enhanced students' lives at the center or improved the overall appearance/functionality of the center facility; the quality of the project/workmanship including design, craftsmanship, neatness and professionalism; and the variety of skills/competencies utilized in the project.

The participating centers demonstrated a variety of skills in each of their projects. For example, students laid concrete and electrical wiring, tiled and carpeted floors and utilized specialty carpentry, landscaping and plumbing skills.

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